

Technical Bulletin:
Fumigation of Obexion Packaging for Shipments to Australia

November 9, 2018

Attention: Customers using Obexion packaging for shipments to Australia. Please read the following information regarding import requirements of the Australian Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (DAWR).

The DAWR is requiring fumigation of many types of products from 01 September 2018 to 30 April 2019 to combat the potential import of the brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB). This will include fumigation to all styles of Obexion corrugated lithium ion battery packaging.

The three (3) BMSB fumigation methods approved by the Australian DAWR are:

- 1) Moist heat at 50°C for at least twenty (20) minutes;
- 2) Methyl bromide for at least twelve (12) hours;
- 3) Sulfuryl fluoride for at least twelve (12) hours.

We recommend the use of **only chemical fumigation** methods with the Obexion line of packaging. Either of the two (2) chemical fumigation methods (Options 2 and 3 above) recommended by the Australian DAWR may be applied to Obexion products without negative effects on the structural integrity of the packaging or on its lithium ion battery thermal runaway risk mitigation technologies.

Chemical fumigation with methyl bromide gas or sulfuryl fluoride gas does not have negative effects on the structural integrity of the Obexion corrugated packaging products. These gases also do not react negatively with the adhesives and chemicals that are part of the external package and its internal components. As a result, we strongly recommend the use of the chemical fumigation methods and recommend against the use of the heat fumigation method when complying with the seasonal import BMSB fumigation requirements of the Australian DAWR.

Do not use the heat fumigation method (Option 1 above) because it involves the application of moist heat for a prolonged period that may compromise the structural integrity of the products. A key note for the moist heat treatment is that “the minimum temperature of the coldest part of the treated goods should reach at least 50°C for at least 20 minutes.” In actual practice, pallets of packaging products and containers including multiple pallets will have to be heated for hours with moist heat in a sealed fumigation chamber to achieve this standard. Prolonged exposure to high levels of humidity in a sealed fumigation chamber may weaken the structural integrity of the external walls of the corrugated package. It may result in deformation of the external walls of the package or the internal corrugated components of the package or both. Prolonged exposure to high levels of humidity in a sealed fumigation chamber may also degrade the adhesives that bind the corrugation together. This could result in delamination of the external walls of the package or of the internal corrugated components or both. Any of these results will degrade the risk mitigation capabilities of the package if a lithium ion battery thermal runaway event occurs in the package.

If you have any questions, please contact:

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